Setting up of solar power plants

537. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 16 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state ;

(a) whether Japan, West Germany and France have shown in terest in financing solar thermal power plants in the country ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Japan and West Germany have indicated their interest in financing Solar Thermal Power Plants in the country under aid/ soft loan. Proposals are in the initial stages and no details have so far been worked out.

Clearance of power projects to be set up in Rajasthan

538. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan Government has requested the Central Government to clear its power projects ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these projects have since been cleared by the Central Government ; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for the delay and by when these are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan has requested that Kota Stage-III, Suratgarh, Chittorgarh, Mandalgarh, Dholpur and Barsinghsar Lignite thermal generation schemes may be cleared early.

(c) and (d) The Kota Stage-III Thermal Projects (1x210 MW) has already been approved by the Planning Commission on 24th February, 1989. Techno-economic approval has been accorded to the Barsinghsar Lignite Project (2x120 MW) on 11th January, 1989, subject to environmental clearance, timely de elopment of linked mine, water availability etc. The project would be considered for investment approval after eseential inputs/clearances have been tied up. The present status of other proposals is given below —

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Present status
1.	Suratgarh (Thermal) .	2x210=420	Coal linkage is yet to be tied up.
2.	Chittorgarh (Thermal)	2x210=420	Rajasthan State Electricity Board was informed in July, 1985 that further investigations are to be carried out by project authorities to tie up water and other inputs.
3.	Mandalgarh (Thermal)	3x210=630	Do.
4.	Dholpur (Thermal) .	2x210=420	Ministry of Environment and Forests have rejected the project site as it was likely to have adverse effect on the environment and on the Taj Mahal. Project authorities have to locate alternative site and submit a revised report.

The project reports could be processed for techno-economic approval after receipt of requisite information/clearances, and other essential inputs have been tied up.